

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-11. Cancelled.

12. (Currently Amended) A tandem pressing apparatus comprising:

a tandem pressing line comprising a plurality of tandem presses disposed side by side, the plurality of tandem presses including an upstream tandem press and a downstream tandem press; and

a work conveying apparatus for conveying a work (W) between the upstream tandem press and the downstream tandem press adjacent tandem presses;

wherein each of the upstream tandem press and the downstream tandem press tandem presses of the tandem pressing line includes a bed, plural uprights studded on the bed, and a slide supported on the uprights to be ascended or descended;

wherein the work conveying apparatus includes a guiding member attached to at least one of a downstream upright of the upstream tandem press and an upstream upright of the downstream tandem press, an end of the guiding member extending substantially beyond the upstream upright of the downstream tandem press and the downstream upright of the upstream tandem press parallel to a conveying direction of the work;

wherein the work conveying apparatus includes a main member and an arm member, the main member being connected to the guiding member and being provided at a portion located between the slide of at least one tandem press of the tandem pressing line and an upright of the at least one tandem press, and not interfering with

the slide; and

wherein the arm member is movable between a position to enter into and retract from ~~an~~ the upstream tandem press, and a position to enter into and retract from [[a]] the downstream tandem press, for transferring the work from the upstream tandem press to the downstream tandem press.

13. (Currently Amended) A tandem pressing apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the main member is disposed in a space formed between ~~[[an]]~~ the downstream upright of the upstream tandem press and ~~[[an]]~~ the upstream upright of the downstream tandem press adjacent to the upstream tandem press, and including a space existing inside the upstream upright and the downstream upright.

14. (Previously Presented) A tandem pressing apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the main member is positioned outside a contour of the slide.

15. (Currently Amended) A tandem pressing apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the main member is fixed to the upright located at one side relative to ~~[[a]]~~ the conveying direction of the work.

16. (Currently Amended) A tandem pressing apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the main member is slidably held by ~~[[a]]~~ the guiding member, the guiding member being provided inside the downstream upright of the upstream tandem press and the upstream upright of the downstream tandem press.

17. (Previously Presented) A tandem pressing apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the main member, moved to the upstream tandem press or the downstream tandem press, is positioned outside a contour of the slide.

18. (Cancelled).

19. (Previously Presented) A tandem pressing apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the arm member is a multi-joint arm including two or more joints.

20. (Previously Presented) A tandem pressing apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the main member is fixed to at an intermediate portion of the upright in the height direction, and the arm member is extended laterally from the main member.

21. (Previously Presented) A tandem pressing apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the guiding member is fixed to at an intermediate portion of the upright in the height direction, and the arm member is extended downwardly from the main member.

22. (Previously Presented) A tandem pressing apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said work conveying apparatus is a conveying robot controlled by a CPU.

23. (Previously Presented) A tandem pressing apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the arm member is a multi-joint arm including two or more joints.

24. (Previously Presented) A tandem pressing apparatus according to claim 16, wherein said work conveying apparatus is a conveying robot controlled by a CPU.

25. (Currently Amended) A method of pressing a work, comprising:

providing a tandem pressing apparatus, said apparatus comprising a tandem pressing line comprising: a plurality of tandem presses disposed adjacent one another, the plurality of tandem presses including an upstream tandem press and a downstream tandem press; and

a conveying apparatus for conveying the work between said upstream tandem press and said downstream tandem press adjacent tandem presses;

wherein each of the upstream tandem press and the downstream tandem press tandem presses comprises a bed, plural uprights, studded on the bed, and a slide supported on the uprights to be ascended or descended;

wherein the work conveying apparatus includes a guiding member attached to at least one of a downstream upright of the upstream tandem press and an upstream upright of the downstream tandem press, an end of the guiding member extending substantially beyond the upstream upright of the downstream tandem press and the downstream upright of the upstream tandem press parallel to a conveying direction of the work;

wherein the work conveying apparatus comprises a main member and an arm member, said main member being connected to the guiding member and being provided at a position located inside the uprights of an adjacent pair of tandem presses,

and not interfering with the slide; and wherein the arm member is movable between a first position to enter into and retract from ~~an~~ the upstream tandem press, and a second position to enter into and retract from [[a]] the downstream tandem press, for transferring the work from the upstream tandem press to the downstream tandem press;

moving the arm member into the upstream tandem press when the slide of the upstream tandem press ascends;

catching the work with the arm member;

moving the arm member and the work out of the upstream tandem press;

moving the arm member and the work to the slide of the downstream tandem press;

leaving the work within the downstream tandem press; and

moving the arm member out of the downstream tandem press.

26. (Currently Amended) A method of pressing a work, comprising:

providing a processing apparatus, comprising upstream and downstream presses disposed adjacent one another, and a conveying apparatus conveying the work between the upstream press and the downstream press, each of said presses comprising a slide for receiving the work, and said work conveying apparatus comprising a guiding member, a main member, and an arm member, said main member being connected to the guiding member and provided at a position not interfering with the slide, and said arm member being movable between a first position entering into and retracting from the upstream press, and a second position entering into and retracting from the downstream press, to thereby transfer the work from the upstream

press to the downstream press;

wherein the guiding member is attached to at least one of a downstream upright of the upstream tandem press and an upstream upright of the downstream tandem press, an end of the guiding member extending substantially beyond the upstream upright of the downstream tandem press and the downstream upright of the upstream tandem press parallel to a conveying direction of the work;

moving the arm member to the first position when the slide of the upstream press ascends;

acquiring the work with the arm member;

moving the work to the downstream press; and

depositing the work on the downstream press.